

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512



December 5, 2001

Ms. Alicia Torre
Calpine Corporation
6700 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 200
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Dear Ms. Torre:

RE: EAST ALTAMONT ENERGY CENTER FOURTH SET OF DATA REQUESTS

Pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716, the California Energy Commission requests the information specified in the enclosed data requests. The information requested is necessary to: 1) more fully understand the project, 2) assess whether the facility will be constructed and operated in compliance with applicable regulations, 3) assess whether the project will result in significant environmental impacts, 4) assess whether the facilities will be constructed and operated in a safe, efficient and reliable manner, and 5) assess potential mitigation measures.

This third set of data requests (#135-141) is being made in the areas of soil and water resources. Written responses to the enclosed data requests are due to the Energy Commission staff on or before January 7, 2001, or at such later date as may be mutually agreed upon. Please note, however, that this information will be most useful if received prior to staff's Preliminary Staff Assessment workshops (tentatively planned for the week beginning December 17).

If you are unable to provide the information requested, need additional time, or object to providing the requested information, please send a written notice to the Committee and me within 10 days of receipt of this notice. The notification must contain the reasons for the inability to provide the information or the grounds for any objections (see Title 20, California Code of Regulations section 1716 (f)).

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed data requests, please call me at (916) 657-4394.

Sincerely,

Cheri L. Davis
Energy Facility Siting Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: Docket (01-AFC-4)
Proof of Service List

**EAST ALTAMONT ENERGY CENTER PROJECT
DATA REQUESTS
(01-AFC-4)**

Technical Area: Water and Soil Resources

Authors: Lorraine White, John Scroggs, Jim Henneforth & John Kessler

BACKGROUND

Staff is assessing the potential effects of the applicant's proposal to supply the EAEC's water needs with fresh water served by Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID). These potential effects include impacts on the environment as well as impacts to other water users. In Section 8.14.2 of the AFC, it is stated that BBID, through conservation and recent reductions in agricultural customer diversions, has reduced its water use from historic highs. The applicant argues that because of these reductions in water use, BBID could serve the EAEC and still be within historic patterns of use. However, no data has been provided to demonstrate or quantify the water savings achieved through conservation. Thus, staff does not have enough information to conclude that the average annual supply of 4,616 acre-feet to the power plant, particularly in initial years of operation, will not create a change in BBID's historical patterns of use, and thus avoid adverse impacts to other water users or the environment. Staff is endeavoring to better understand the potential for impacts of the proposed water supply (both positive and negative), and therefore needs to understand the potential for change in BBID's historical patterns of diversions and use.

A copy of BBID's Recycled Water Feasibility Study is included in EAEC's Responses to Data Requests 10 through 124, dated August 17, 2001. Exhibit 3 of the Feasibility Study is a summary of average monthly distributions of water supply deliveries to BBID based on its average deliveries for the 1998 – 2000 period. The data suggests little or no deliveries occurred during November – February during this period. In addition, Section 7.1.6 of the AFC indicates that BBID's normal maintenance schedule for their canals requires them to be shut down from November through March for cleaning of aquatic weeds and canal bank reshaping. Water demands of the EAEC will require supply during winter, as well as all other months of the year.

DATA REQUEST

135. Please supply copies of BBID's Statements of Water Diversion and Use (in reference to Sections 5100 - 5108 of the Water Code), providing monthly and annual quantities of water diversions by BBID over the past 20 years. If Statements are not available, please provide the data in whatever form it might be available.
136. Please summarize conservation measures employed by BBID and the resulting quantities of water that have been saved by such measures.

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137. Please provide relevant excerpts from the Bay-Delta Programmatic EIR that discuss the existing and senior water rights to the SWP and CVP as it pertains to recognition of BBID's senior rights.

BACKGROUND

A copy of BBID's Recycled Water Feasibility Study is included in EAEC's Responses to Data Requests 10 through 124, dated August 17, 2001. Exhibit 5 of the Feasibility Study is a summary of total projected availability of recycled water from Mountain House Community Services District's (MHCS D's) development. Based on the summary, it is proposed for EAEC to receive only a portion of total projections in light of MHCS D's planned uses for irrigation of golf courses and parks. The Applicant's current projection is that recycled water from MHCS D would ultimately provide up to 62% of EAEC's needs on an average annual basis.

A comparison of EAEC proposed allocations vs. total projected recycled water available from MHCS D is summarized in units of acre-feet per year as follows:

YEAR	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
EAEC Allocation	500	1,810	2,495	2,884	2,884	2,884	2,884	2,884
Total MHCS D Projection	1,483	2,965	4,448	5,930	5,930	5,930	5,930	5,930

DATA REQUEST

138. Is the Applicant willing to negotiate with MHCS D for a greater quantity of recycled water? If so, please indicate a date that the Applicant could report back to staff on the progress of such negotiations.
139. As it may be possible for MHCS D to eventually provide 100 percent of the project water demand for EAEC, please provide an analysis of the feasibility of the EAEC using 100 percent recycled water by year 2015 or shortly thereafter, and any associated impacts of this use.

BACKGROUND

Section 8.14.3 of the AFC provides calculations of both pre-project and project storm water runoff rates, under conditions of 10, 25, 50 and 100-year storm events. The project rates do not reflect the net rate of discharge following conveyance and detention by the proposed EAEC storm water facilities, and thus do not demonstrate that project discharges will be less than or equal to pre-project discharges.

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DATA REQUEST

140. Please provide EAEC project storm water discharges under storm return periods of 10, 25, 50 and 100-year recurrences of 24-hour events.
141. Please describe the following characteristics of the storm water detention basin:
 - a. Its capacity by volume;
 - b. The type and discharge capacity of its outlets (such as for a weir and spillway outlet); and
 - c. If the outlets are operated in a regulated or passive mode.